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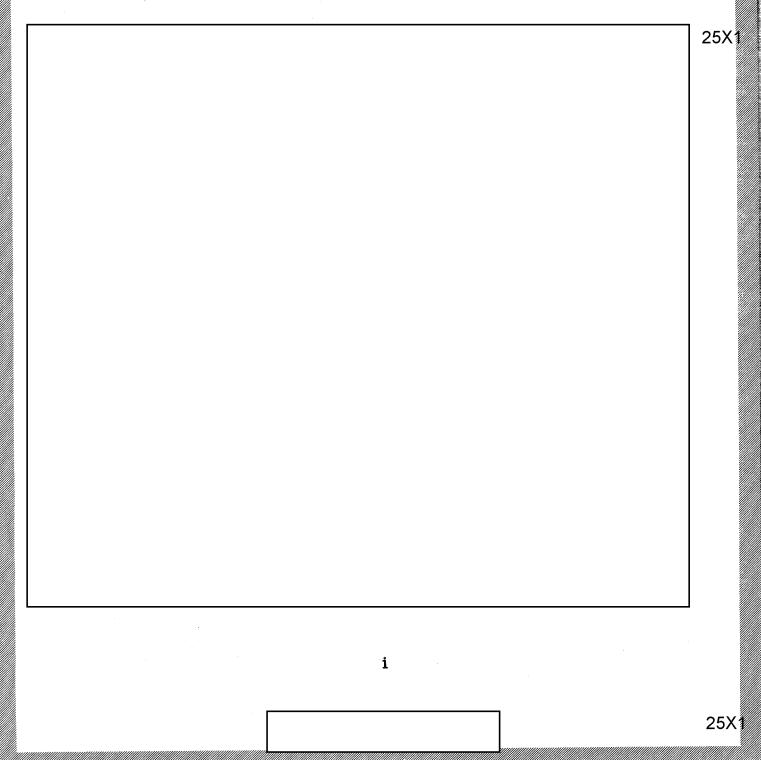
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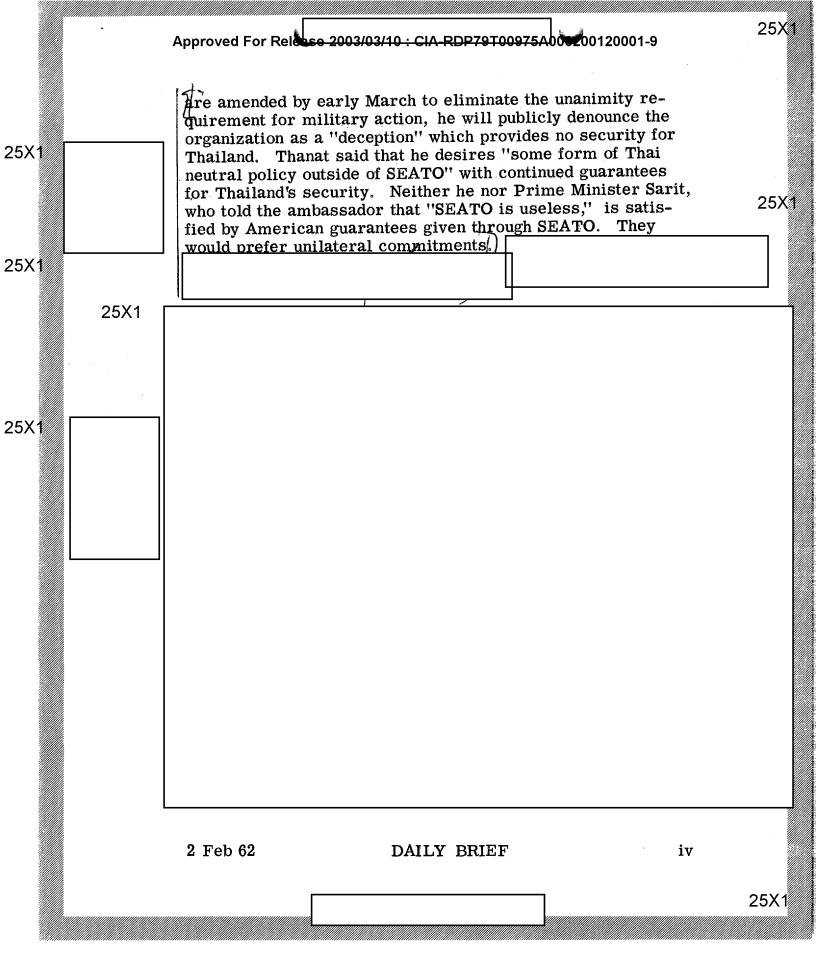
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DAILY BRIEF







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Tension in Argentina

Frondizi is facing one of the most severe of the numerous crises resulting from military pressure during his three and a half years in office. Most of these crises have been related to the armed forces' insistence that Frondizi maintain strong measures against a resurgence of Peronista influence and take strong anti-Communist measures. Before the OAS conference at Punta del Este the military advised Frondizi to support a strong anti-Castro position, and they were deeply angered by Argentina's abstention.

Air Force and Navy leaders seem to be taking the initiative. Military officials met during the evening of 31 January and reportedly demanded that Frondizi break relations with Cuba within 48 hours. According to Air Force contacts of the US Embassy in Buenos Aires, the Air Force and the Navy did not have the complete support of Army Secretary Fraga for their demands as of 31 January, but did have the firm support of 16 important army generals. The three military secretaries spoke jointly with Frondizi on 1 February, which suggests that Fraga now has given his full support. The flavor of military opinion was reflected in the conservative daily Correo de la Tarde, which, in an editorial entitled "We Are Ashamed," concluded: "Restitution must be made, and in our shame we beat at the doors of the government house... to demand reparation commensurate with such an insult."

The US Embassy believes that Frondizi may be prepared to break relations with Cuba to ease military pressure and at the same time substantiate Argentina's argument that its position taken at the Punta del Este meeting was purely juridical. Responding to the military demands for more effective action against the Peronistas, the interior minister has announced that ex-dictator Peron could not be a candidate for any elective office because of outstanding criminal charges.

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